

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AGR-05

AGRE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 /089 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4470

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 2910

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJ: AVLONA: TURKISH/UNFICYP CONFRONTATION

1. SUMMARY : ON SEPTEMBER 20 AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS HAD A LONG DISCUSSION ON AVLONA WITH UNFICYP COMMANDER PREM CHAND AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF. UNFICYP OFFICIALS RECITED HISTORY OF AVLONA PROBLEM, DESCRIBING HOW ONE INCIDENT INVOLVING A "TURK CYPRIOT FARMER" GREW INTO (A) AN OVERALL TURKISH CHALLENGE TO UN PRACTICE OF ESCORTING GREEK FARMERS INTO DMZ TO WORK ON LAND THEY OWN AND(B) AN APPARENT TURKISH BID TO CREAT IN AVLONA AREA A PRECEDENT FOR UTILIZATION OF AS  
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MUCH AS 50 PERCENT OF DMZ, WHICH COMPRISES 3.1 PERCENT OF THE

TERRITORY OF CYPRUS REPUBLIC. PREM CHAND SAID U.S. COULD HELP SITUATION BY SUPPORTING UNFICYP IN ITS EFFORTS TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY IN THE CONFRONTATION AREA AND TO CONTINUE PAST PRACTICES UNTIL CHANGES IN STATUS QUO CAN BE AGREED BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. CURRENT AVLONA STATUS IS THAT UNFICYP IS PROTESTING BUT NOT TAKING ACTION TO PREVENT A TOKEN NUMBER OF "TURK CYPRIOT FARMERS" TO "WORK" IN THE AREA FORMERLY FARMED BY GREEK CYPRIOTS AS FAR SOUTH AS 90 NORTHINGP. GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE CARRYING OUT NORMAL FARMING SOUTH OF 90 NORTHING. THREE TO FOUR PERSONS FROM THE TURKISH SIDE COME OUT OF AVLONA VILLAGE EACH DAY AND, WHILE THEY DO NOT WORK, DO "LEAN ON SHOVELS" FOR A GOOD PART OF THE TIME.

3. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST AND CLARIFICATION CAME OUT OF DISCUSSION:

(A) "DENKTASH COMMITMENT". UNFICYP BASED ITS FIRST PROPOSALS FOR SOLUTION OF AVLONA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION ON A SUGGESTION MADE BY "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH ON JUNE 29 THAT AGRICULTURAL REQUIREMENTS OF AVLONA TURKS COULD BE SATISFIED BY ADDING AN ARC OF LAND OF APPROXIMATELY 200-METER RADIUS TO THE WEST, SOUTH AND EAST OF PRESENT TURKISH FORWARD DEFENSE LINE (FDL) AT AVLONA. DENKTASH SUBSEQUENTLY BACKED AWAY FROM THIS SUGGESTION, PLEADING THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY FAMILIAR WITH SITUATION WHEN SUGGESTION WAS MADE AND THAT TURKISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE NOW INSISTING ON A "SECURITY ZONE" FREE OF GREEK FARMING ACTIVITIES SOUTH AS FAR AS 90 NORTHING LINE. THE FIRST PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTABLE TO GOC, SECOND WAS(AND IS) NOT BECAUSE IT INVOLVED DENIAL TO GREEKS OF LAND THEY HAVE BEEN CULTIVATING UNDER UNFICYP ESCORT FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS.

(B) "MUTUALLY AGREED". THE TURKS ARE TROUBLED BY A STATEMENT IN A UNFICYP PRESS RELEASE OF SEPTEMBER 15 THAT FARMING LINES IN THE AVLONA AREA WERE SUBJECT OF "MUTUAL AGREEMENT" BETWEEN UNFICYP AND TURKISH SIDE. "TFSC" PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE MADE THE POINT THAT UNFICYP HAS "FAILED TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTS" TO SUPPORT ITS POSITION. UNFICYP AGREES THERE ARE NO WRITTEN AGREEMENTS ON THE FARMING LINE, BUT NOTES THAT THERE ARE SPECIFIC CONFIDENTIAL

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RECORDED ORAL ARRANGEMENTS ON PARTS OF THE AVLONA LINE AND 108 SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ALONG ENTIRE DMZ. ONE OF THESE, FOR EXAMPLE, PROVIDES FOR GREEK CYPRIOT USE OF SPECIFIC FARMLANDS WELL NORTH OF 90 NORTHING IN RETURN FOR TURKISH PERMISSION TO MOVE ALONG PATROL TRACK OUTSIDE THEIR FDL. UNFICYP HAS SPELLED OUT THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF "MUTUALLY AGREED" IN A SEPTEMBER 8 MEMORANDUM FROM ITS CHIEF OF STAFF TO TURKISH CHIEF OF STAFF IN CYPRUS. TURKS HAVE NOT RESPONDED

TO THIS DOCUMENT.

(C) STATUS OF DMZ AND FUTURE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES.  
UNFICYP OFFICIALS BELIEVE THEY HAVE MADE TWO SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS TO TURKS. FIRST, IN A LETTER OF JULY 22 DRAFTED WITH HELP OF TURKISH AMBASSADORS INHAN AND BARUTCU, UN SPECIAL REP DE CUELLAR INFORMED DENKTASH THAT EFFECTIVE THAT DAY ANY NEW HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES. SECONS, IN A LETTER OF JULY 28 TO TURKISH AMBASSADOR INHAN, UNFICYP STATED THE PRINCIPLE THAT HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE DO NOT PREJUDICE THE STATUS OF THE AREA AND THAT THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE ZONE IS AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR INCLUSION IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON A FINAL SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

(D) STATUS QUO. TURKS, ACCRODING TO UN, IN RESPONDING TO JULY 22 LETTER, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN TACIT AGREEMENT FOR SOME GREEK CYPRIOT ACIVITIES IN DMZ BUT WITH SIGNIFICANT QUALIFICATION THAT STATUS QUO BASED ON "PAST PROTESTED PRACTICES" WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED. IN SUBSEQUENT ARGUMENTATION, DENKTASH ALSO DEVELOPED THEME THAT RESETTLEMENT OF AVLONA INTRODUCED A NEW ELEMENT INTO THE SITUATION IN THAT SPECIFIC AREA WHICH HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN CONSIDERING EARLIER PRACTICES. UNFICYP OFFICIALS AGREE THAT SETTLING OF AVLONA HAS CREATED NEW SET OF REQUIREMENTS OF TURKISH AGRICULTURAL USE OF DMZ, BUT FELL STRONGLY THAT THEIR PROPOSAL FOR TURK CYPRIOT USE OF LAND WITHIN THE DENKTASH 200-METER ARC PLUS SUBSTANTIAL LAND EAST OF THE VILLAGE, OUTSIDE OF TURKISH DFDL BUT NORTH OF PRESENT GREEK CYPRIOT HARVESTING LINE, SHOULD SATISFY HUMANITARIAN REQUIEMENTS.  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4471

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(E) SECURITY REQUIREMENT. ACCORDING TO UNFICYP, WHEN CONFRONTED WITH UN'S WELL-DOCUMENTED AGREEMENTS ON PAST HUMANITARIAN USE IN DMZ, TURKISH SIDE HAS FALLEN BACK ON THE ARGUMENT THAT TURKISH MILITARY REQUIRES 1,000 METERS SOUTH OF AVLONA FOR SECURITY. UNFICYP OFFICIALS AGREE THAT THIS IS THE OPERATIVE PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT, SINCE TURKISH SIDE HAS, IN THEIR OPINION, FAILED TO SHOW ANY LEGAL BASIS FOR DEMAND TO EXCLUDE GREEKS FROM AREA NORTH OF 90 NORTHING.

4. WHEN ASKED PREM CHAND HOW THE UNITED STATES MIGHT RESPOND TO URGUHART'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE(REFTEL) , HE  
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ASKED THAT USG HELP HIM IN PUTTING THE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS TO THE GOT: (A) THE PRINCIPLE MUST BE ACCEPTED THAT MEITHER SIDE HAS LEGAL AUTHROITY IN THE CONFRONTATION ZONE. UNFICYP IS THE ONLY AUTHORITY THERE AND SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MONITOR AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BY CIVILIANS FROM EITHER SIDE. IF EITHER SIDE WISHES CHANGES IN THE STATUS QUO, THEY SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH UNFICYP, ALLOWING PAST PRACTICES TO CONTINUE UNTIL AGREEMENT IS REACHED; (B) ON THE PRAGMATIC SIDE AND RECOGINIZING

THAT THE AVLONA SITUATION IS IN DISPUTE, UNFICYP SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ESCORT GREEK FARMERS NORTH OF THE 90 NORTHING TO THE AVLONA FARMING LINE OF LATE 1974 FOR CONSERVATION MEASURES( SUCH AS IRRIGATION), WITH REGULAR FARMING TO BE CARRIED OUT ONLY BELOW THE 90 NORTHING LINE UNTIL ISSUE IS RESOLVED. MEANWHILE, TURK CYPRIOT FARMERS SHOULD BEGIN TO CULTIVATE THE AREA MENTIONED IN PARA 3(D) SOUTH AND EAST OF THE VILLAGE UNDER UNFICYP ESCORT.

5. COMMENT: WE SUPPORT THE UNFICYP CONTENTION THAT THE TURKISH SIDE EFFECTIVELY CHANGED THE STATUS QUO IN THE AVLONA AREA WITHOUT OBTAINING THE CONSENT OF UNFICYP OR THE GOC. WE BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SUPPORT UNFICYP'S TWO-POINT REQUEST. HOWEVER, WE FEAR THAT THE TURKS HAVE CREATED A DE FACTO SITUATION IN WHICH THE DIS-PUTED AREA IS EFFECTIVELY LOST TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS, WITH THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REST OF THE DMZ NOTED IN FIRST PARAGRAPH.  
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## Message Attributes

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